

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

- 1. (Currently Amended)** A recording device control apparatus that successively receives transfer requests and controls transfer of data relating to the transfer requests to and from a recording device, each transfer request including (i) area information that shows an area that is a transfer destination or a transfer source in the recording device and (ii) type information for specifying a transfer data type, the recording device control apparatus comprising:

 - a reception unit operable to receive the transfer requests;
 - a queue management unit operable to manage a processing order of the received transfer requests;
 - a transfer criterion judgment unit operable to determine which of the received transfer requests to set as a focus request based on a predetermined transfer criterion;
 - a management information judgment unit operable to judge whether or not the focus request is a transfer request for management information, and on judging that the focus request is a transfer request for management information, judge with reference to the processing order whether or not a transfer request for management information exists before the focus request;
 - a transfer-request specification judgment unit operable to:

 - (1) judge with reference to the processing order whether or not a transfer request having type information identical to the type information of the focus request exists before the focus request;
 - (2) specify data relating to the focus request as a transfer target when the management information judgment unit judges that a transfer request for management information does not exist before the focus request; and,
 - (3) set a transfer request for management information closest to the focus transfer request, as the focus request, when the management information judgment unit judges that a transfer request for management information exists before the focus request, and
 - a transfer unit operable to transfer the data specified by the transfer-request specification judgment unit.

- 2. (Currently Amended)** The recording device control apparatus of Claim 1, wherein

the management information judgment unit is operable to judge with reference to the processing order whether or not a transfer request exists before the focus request for management information that includes area information identical to the area information of the focus request on judging that the focus request is a transfer request for management information, and

when the management information judgment unit judges that no transfer request for management information that includes area information identical to the area information of the focus request exists before the focus request, the transfer-request specification-judgment unit is operable to send a judgment result to a request judgment unit.

3. (Previously Presented) The recording device control apparatus of Claim 1, wherein:

the reception unit is operable to receive a first transfer request and a second transfer request; and

the transfer criterion judgment unit is operable to judge whether or not the first transfer request is to be set as the focus request and is operable to determine which of the transfer requests to set as the target request, based on one of (a) whether or not the type information of the first transfer request and the type information of the second transfer request are different from each other, and (b) a result of comparing a priority level of the first transfer request and a priority level of the second transfer request.

4. (Previously Presented) The recording device control apparatus of Claim 1, wherein:

the reception unit is operable to receive a first transfer request and a second transfer request; and

the transfer criterion judgment unit is operable to judge that neither of the first transfer request and the second transfer request is to be set as the focus request, and is operable to determine that a transfer request following the first transfer request is to be set as the focus request, when the type information of the first transfer request and the type information of the second transfer request are different from each other and the priority level of the second transfer request is higher than the priority level of the first transfer request.

5. (Currently Amended) The recording device control apparatus of Claim 1, wherein

the ~~transfer-request specification-judgment~~ unit is operable to specify the data relating to the focus request as the transfer target when no transfer request having type information identical to the type information of the focus request exists before the focus request.

6-7. (Canceled)

8. (Currently Amended) The recording device control apparatus of claim 1, wherein the ~~transfer-request specification-judgment~~ unit is further operable to set the transfer request closest to the focus request and that has type information identical to the type information of the focus request, as the focus request, on judging that a transfer request having type information identical to the type information of the focus request exists before the focus request.

9. (Currently Amended) The recording device control apparatus of claim 1, wherein: the management information judgment unit is further operable to judge with reference to the processing order whether or not a transfer request for management information exists after the focus request on judging that the focus request is a transfer request for management information; and

the ~~transfer-request specification-judgment~~ unit is further operable to exclude the focus request from being a transfer target when the management information judgment unit judges that a transfer request for management information exists after the focus request.

10. (Currently Amended) The recording device control apparatus of claim 9, wherein: the reception unit is further operable to receive an omission instruction that instructs omission of transfer of redundant management information; and

the ~~transfer-request specification-judgment~~ unit is operable to exclude the focus request from being a transfer target only if the reception unit receives the omission instruction.

11. (Previously Presented) A recording device control method for successively receiving transfer requests and controlling transfer of data relating to the transfer requests to and from a recording device, each transfer request including (i) area information that shows an area

that is a transfer destination or a transfer source in the recording device and (ii) type information for specifying a transfer data type, the recording device control method comprising:

receiving the transfer requests;

managing a processing order of the received transfer requests;

determining which of the received transfer requests to set as a focus request based on a predetermined transfer criterion;

judging whether or not the focus request is a transfer request for management information, and when the focus request is a transfer request for management information, judging with reference to the processing order whether or not a transfer request for management information exists before the focus request;

judging with reference to the processing order whether or not a transfer request having type information identical to the type information of the focus request exists before the focus request and specifying data relating to the focus request as a transfer target when the management information judgment unit judges that a transfer request for management information does not exist before the focus request and when no transfer request having type information identical to the type information of the focus request exists before the focus request;

setting a transfer request for management information closest to the focus transfer request, as the focus request, when the management information judgment unit judges that a transfer request for management information exists before the focus request; and

transferring the specified data.

12. (Previously Presented) A computer program recorded on a computer-readable recording medium for successively receiving transfer requests and controlling transfer of data relating to the transfer requests to and from a recording device, each transfer request including (i) area information that shows an area that is a transfer destination or a transfer source in the recording device and (ii) type information for specifying a transfer data type, the computer program causing a computer to execute at least the following:

receiving the transfer requests;

managing a processing order of the received transfer requests;

determining which of the received transfer requests to set as a focus request based on a

predetermined transfer criterion;

judging whether or not the focus request is a transfer request for management information, and when the focus request is a transfer request for management information, judging with reference to the processing order whether or not a transfer request for management information exists before the focus request;

judging with reference to the processing order whether or not a transfer request having type information identical to the type information of the focus request exists before the focus request and specifying data relating to the focus request as a transfer target when the management information judgment unit judges that a transfer request for management information does not exist before the focus request and when no transfer request having type information identical to the type information of the focus request exists before the focus request;

setting a transfer request for management information closest to the focus transfer request, as the focus request, when the management information judgment unit judges that a transfer request for management information exists before the focus request; and

transferring the specified data.